Houston Chronicle

Bay Area News



'Naked unicyclist' dies in overnight traffic accident in La Porte

By: Carol Christian Published: August 6th, 2014

A man who became known to the Kemah community as the "naked unicyclist" has died after an overnight traffic accident, police said.

Joseph Glynn Farley, 48, was riding his unicycle about 11 p.m. Tuesday in La Porte when he was struck and killed by a Jeep, Sgt. John Krueger of the La Porte Police Department said.

Farley, who was wearing clothes and a safety vest at the time, was southbound in the 2000 block of Sens Road in a lane of moving traffic where the road has no shoulder, Krueger said. He was hit from behind by a Jeep that was also southbound, the police department spokesman said.

Although Farley was following the law by wearing the safety vest and having lights on his unicycle, accident reconstructionists believe he might not have been visible to other motorists due to lights from nearby businesses and street lights at Spencer Highway about half a mile ahead, Krueger said.

Alcohol was not believed to be a factor by either Farley or the Jeep driver, and no charges had yet been sought or filed on Wednesday, he said. The accident remained under investigation.

In May 2012, after Farley was charged with indecent exposure for riding nude in broad daylight on the Texas 146 bridge between Kemah and Seabrook, his father told officials and news media that his son suffered from paranoid schizophrenia.

"Over the last six-plus years he's steadily gone downhill," Carl Farley said of his son in 2012. "He frequently suffers from delusions and loss of contact with reality, which is what the bridge incident illustrates. Oftentimes he doesn't know right from wrong."